MELODY BY A CHOIR OF EX-SAV. AGES FROM SOUTH AFRICA.

Meard-Their Singing Good-Their War Bance Not Adapted for Church Shows. A young woman of the South African tribe of Basutos stood on the platform in the Broadway Tabernacie last Friday evening and, with her head tilted back and a broadly appreciative

> If a body meet a body Comin' thro' the rye; If a body kiss a body Need a body cry?

With a purity of tone that was surprising, the asuto girl sang this bonnie Scotch balled of love and coquetry, which perhaps she had learned from hearing an Englishman hum it in the little settlement at Grahamstown. She spoke the words distinctly and with an English accent and inflexion. The audience applauded, and whea she sang again it was a hymn that she had heard in the little white chapel at home, where she had learned to speak another language than her own, and with it something bout the rest of the world.

Her face was nearly oval, and her gown was even more surprising than her singing. She



ore a dress that in its lines around the upper part of the bust did not vary much from the atyle that Mrs. Grannis found so objectionable at the opera. If the weather had not been so old, and if there had not been other objections, and the Basuto girl had gowned herself in the latest South African native style, her clothes couldn't have been worth discussing. But been conditions did not prevail, and she took advantage of that fact to trifle with various hues of green in her dress. Miss Basuto's arms were bare, plump, and well shaped except at the shoulders, and later when she came down the aisle selling her photographs there were buyers.

Miss Baauto—her real flame is a combination clucks and Basuto sounds that would look ike an alphabet trust if put in print—was one of a dozen South African Kaffir singers who sang native wedding songs, nursery ballads, South African sero-comics, Kaffir grand opers, hymns and sacred music in English at the Broadway Tabernacle. They have been singing as a Kaffir choir in various churches and halls in this country for some months. The proceeds are to go toward equipping a school of manual instrucion at Grahamstown for Kaffir boys and girls. This work is under the supervision of the Episcopal mission at that place. Each member of this choir, which includes two youngsters, one



Hottentot and the other a Bushman, represents a different tribe. Their chorus singing has all the melody and richness of a Southern darky chorus. In fact, did they sing nothing but English songs it would be hard to convince an audience that they were not plantation darkies disguised in Kaffir dress. Miss Elsie Clark, a daughter of the manager

of the British Bechuanaland Trading Company, and James H. Balmer, formerly in the English Government service in South Africa, organized this Kaffir choir and brought it to this country. Miss Clark is a bright-faced young woman, with a fondness for music and a desire to civilize the Kaffire. Mr. Balmer has a well-trained baritone voice, and he sings with the choir and di-rects it while Miss Clark plays the accompani-

ment.
"I didn't go to South Africa as a missionary,"
he said. "I was in the Government service.
About four years ago I was lying ill with a fever
in the Kimberley Hospital in the diamond fields
when a friend came to me and said, 'Look here,
Balmer, you're the man we want to organize a
Kaffir choir for the mission." My father had



BY THE FOUNTAIN.

been a minister, and I was interested in the work, so, with the assistance of Miss Clark, I began to organize a choir. We started out with a quartet first and made a tour of South Africa, sometimes in a bullock cart and sometimes by train. When I heard of a particularly good singer in some tribe I would try to get him or her to join my choir. Miss Clark speaks several of the Kaffir languages, and so, little by little, we got the choir together. In about two weeks we shall sail for South Africa again, and our Kaffirs will have a lot to tell when they do get back.

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Mr. Balmer's Kaffirs aroused the interest of the audience as soon as they walked out on the platform. The women, and there were five of them, wore various styles of dresses, in which were displayed about every available color. The men wore Kaffir winter blankets, and in their hair were unts of different shapes and colors. The little Hotentot and the boy Bushman wore a garment that looked like an old potato sack, with a slit cut in the top for the wearer's head. Their feet and legs were bare, and so were their shoulders. They acted as end men for the choir, and the Bushman wasn's still a minute. He is 8 years old, and his name would be applied first Brado in English and pronounced something like Geherre thraw. He is not five feet in height and Mr. Halmersays that he never will grow as inch taller, tiert is the first one of his family who ever went abroad on a singing expedition. For generations back his ancestors have been alseeping and living under bushes or the cloor. Mrs. Wiggins excitably shut the door.



he was going back to see her. He was sad. Mr. Balmer didn't say much for the Hottentot's mother, but he implied that she occasionly made things warm, even in an African climate, for the boy. He is thinking of applying to a magistrate for full possession of the boy when he returns.

the boy. He is thinking of applying to amagistrate for full possession of the boy when he returns.

The other members of the choir are as interesting, though they are not pretty to look at. They were also a suggestive exhibit to the Tabernacle audience. They had come from a little roast at 125 degrees above in the jungle shade, where assegnis may be thrown careleasly, to the New York climate and what is claimed to be pretty near the top notch of modern civilization. Since they have been in this country they have learned some things, and among them the advantages of bathing, of which they avail themselves when urged. They sing a number of songs in English, and some of them speak a little English. Their pronunciation is good, out their vocabularies are limited. So far they have acquired no slang. Mr. Halmer says that since their arrival in this country they have kept him busy trying to answer their questions. Railroad trains were not a novelty, but cable cars and troileys and Broadway policemen and electric bells and a thousand and one other things were, and they wanted to know all about them at once. Mr. Balmer and Miss Clark have done the best they could under the circumstances, considering the limitations of Kaffir tongues and the small English vocabulary with which the singers are familiar.

It was noticeable in their concert that the Kaffirs seemed to get as much pleasure from their music as did the audience. They swayed their bodies in time and changed their expressions to suit the sentiment. When any member of the choir wassinging a solo the other Kaffirs, either with their hands or feet, kept time to the music. When the troupe first started on its travels Mr. Balmer was accustomed to have them give an imitation of a Zulu war



A NATIVE HYMN.

dance at each performance. This imitation became so real that it threatened to break up the choir as well as the heads of most of the Kaffir men. One evening, when the men had worked themselves to a great pitch of excitement in giving this war dance, one of them raised his club and whacked another over the head, knocking him down. The next evening the man who had been struck returned the compliment in delicate Zulu style by nearly gouging out the eye of his assailant of the previous evening. Most of the choir's concerts had been arranged for churches and so the war dance was suspended. Mr. Balmer says that they are temperate and they live together with very little quarrelling.

He has spent a good deal of time training their voices, and he thinks that the results have repaid him. They sing part songs together in a way that would not discredit a New York glee club. Their native songs are more interesting and just as melodious. In one of them they

repaid him. They sing part songs together in a way that would not discredit a New York glee club. Their native songs are more interesting and just as melodious. In one of them they gave an imitation of a deep-toned bell that was excellent. The bassos and the women's voices chimed with an effect that was surprisingly like a melodiously toned bell. One of the most interesting of their native songs is a wedding march. Kaffir marriage rites do not include a graceful giving away of the bride at the altar, with rice and old slippers later. The bride is sold by her father, and after a big feast from the proceeds the bridegroom comes after her and carries her away. The louder the bride cries and screams while she is being carried away, the less her feminine friends pick to noise and cries capiously as the bridegroom drags her character. If she makes a lot of noise and cries capiously as the bridegroom drags her away they agree that she must have been a real good girl, and that she is heartbroken at having to leave her poor old father. She may not have seen the bridegroom until he comes to take her away, and the possibility of her not liking his face or his clothes would not in the best circles of Kaffir society be accepted as an explanation of tears. These incidents of a merry Kaffir wedding with the crying bride and the guests who have been dined and wined by her fasher, singing gleefully, are brought out in

Kaffir wedding with the crying bride and the guests who have been dined and wined by her father, singing gleefully, are brought out in this wedding song.

"These people," said Mr. Balmer, speaking of the Kaffirs, "have wonderful voices. Our scale consists of thirteen notes. It is possible to distinguish eighteen in theirs. They always sing sharp, and their tones are finer naturally than ours. People in this country and in England sing flat as a rule. A Kaffir's voice is capable of wonderful modulations, and naturally they are a musical people, as you may judge from the members of this choir and from the singing of your Southern darkies, many of whom are of Kaffir descent."

THE BRIDE'S HOME COMING.

Bruin Greets Her After a Quick Wedding at Olakustoe Creek Ford.

ROGERS, Tenn., Dec. 12.-Lish Wiggins, who has a cabin up near the head of Olakustee Creek. in Shooter's Cove, got married the other day. This he accomplished by waylaying the circuit rider at the ford below, as the preacher passed on his monthly Saturday round, on his way to Macedony Church, a few miles further on. Lish, being accompanied by Net Woolley, his sweetheart, the twain were made into one so speedily that Lish was half inclined to think he had been imposed on when the preacher suggested \$2 as about the proper sum for tying so slick a knot. He handed the money over reluctantly, then turned homeward with his bride, remarking

parenthetically:
"Marryin' would beat stillin' if a fellow could git enough of it to do." Net did not answer. She was somewhat overcome by the novelty of the situation, travelling up Okalustee Hollow with a husband all alone

"Never mind, Net," said Lish, divining the trend of her thoughts, "I been bach'in' so long that I got ever'thing fixed." Then he stopped Dad blim it all! I belfeve I left the cabin door

open."
"What er that, Lish?"

"Old Bloss or some er the shotes might take a notion to go in." So they hastened their steps and in due tim arrived in sight of the cabin that Lish had left hardly four hours before to its own devices. Sure enough the door was open, and before they reached it a huge dun figure appeared there from the inside, and rearing up, looked out at the astonished bride and bridegroom. Net set her bundle of clothes down and seemed to want to scream, but, being a mountain girl, only said:
"Hit are a b'ar, Lish!"

"Dad blim it!" exclaimed he: "I orter brung my gun along. Hit must be in the rack over the

Land alive, Net! Whatdid you do that for?"

Lish did not relish this move, the gun being unloaded.

"Lend alive, Net! Whatdid you do that for?" he cried.

"Shoot him, Life! Shoot him while you've got him close!" called the resolute gir!, who had been reared to the bellef that a full-grown "panter" was about the only dangerous varmint in the Big Smokles.

"How in the nation kin I shoot him with a empty gun and no chance to git to the katridges?"

"He'll git pium away if we open the door.

Can't you find them katridges?"

"Well, if I did, d' you want the house all mussed up and fore up by a dyin' b'ar?"

"Massy no!" exclaimed Not, brought back to prudent methods through her neat housewifely instincts.

So she pushed the door open again. Bruin, meanwile, was standing between Lish and the path of retreat. The brute was growing uneasy, for he stood bristling and growling, with his small, flerce eyes fixed on the young man, who was searching his pockets for a stray cartridge. Net was struck with an idea as she grew anxious upon Lish's account.

"Run down suller yourself, Lish," she suggested. "Mebbe he'll come out doors then."

This struck Lish as a good scheme, so down he went, gun and all, slamming to the trap as he descended. Net retreated to the top of the fowl house, after pushing open the door, and waited for the bear to come out. But Bruin appeared to have on hand other plans. Net remained at her perch until her patience was exhausted, then descended and made her way cautiously toward the nearest chink in the cabin wall. But as she turned a corner, the top of the great stone chimney came into view. Then she shouted the nearest chink in the cabin wall. But as she turned a corner, the top of the great stone chimney came into view. Then she shouted the nearest chink in the cabin wall. But as she turned a corner, the top of the great stone chimney came into view. Then she shouted the nearest chink in the cabin wall. But as she turned a corner, the top of the great stone chim afore he pulls his head down."

The bear's head was sticking from the chimney top.

match and cast the bundle into the empty fireplace.
By the time she returned to the yard the smoke
was rolling upward, and with it came the bear,
He clambered out on the comb of the roof and
looked about unessily.
"Now is your time, Lish!" cried the bride.
"Ping him right in the head—quick."
So Lish pinged the animal with such deadly
effect that, after a struggle or two to keep his
position. Hruin came tumbling down the roof,
clawing off covering boards as he rolled. At the
eaves he held on for an instant, then fell heavily
on the doorstep. Lish settled him with one
more .44 ball in the brain, and the bear lay a
huge, shaggy, motionless mass.
Not surveyed the carcase with her arms
akimbo. Then she gave Lish a good, old-fashjoned hug.

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